Ministry of Advanced Education

Plan for 2013-14

Government of Saskatchewan

PLAN FOR 2013-14

Statement from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Advanced Education's Plan for 2013-14.

The Government's Direction and Budget for 2013-14 are built on the principle of *Balanced Growth*, supporting an ongoing focus on sound economic growth and shared prosperity.

The Ministry's Plan identifies the key actions that will support the Government's Direction. Our strong commitment to post-secondary education continues through key investments in both operational and capital funding of post-secondary institutions and through further measures to support participation and completion of post-secondary education in Saskatchewan, especially for First Nations and Métis people.

Working closely with our partners in the post-secondary system, we will continue to build Saskatchewan's connections to advanced education internationally, support research and innovation in the province, and encourage growth, efficiency and sustainability of programs at post-secondary institutions.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2013-14 Annual Report.

The Honourable Don Morgan
Minister of Advanced Education

Response to Government Direction

The government remains committed to further establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, work and raise a family.

The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond identifies principles, goals and actions to ensure Saskatchewan continues to benefit from the opportunities and meet the challenges of a growing province. Keeping government's focus on *Balanced Growth*, the plan outlines the key activities that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake in pursuit of sustained, disciplined growth and a better Saskatchewan.

Government's Vision

"...a strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Improving our quality of life	Making life more affordable	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to focus on achieving greater success in the delivery of government services. *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* provides the enabling strategies and actions that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake to build a strong and growing Saskatchewan. The 2013-14 budget theme of *Balanced Growth* reflects the government's commitment to achieving the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress and results achieved in their 2013-14 annual reports. This honours government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The Ministry provides leadership and resources to foster a high-quality advanced education and training system that responds to the needs of Saskatchewan's people and economy.

Strategy

Supporting growth by ensuring an educated and skilled workforce to meet existing and future labour market demand

Key Actions

- Encourage the province's post-secondary institutions to provide education and training programs aligned with the labour market needs across all sectors of the provincial economy.
- Support new nurses and nurse practitioners to practice in underserved rural and remote communities by forgiving up to $20,000 in Saskatchewan student loans.
- Support the expansion of training seats for health professionals by adding new training seats for nurse practitioners.
- Deliver on the Ministry's obligations under the New West Partnership.
- Support students to engage internationally by:
  - working with post-secondary institutions to encourage the study of international languages in business schools;
  - attracting and retaining additional international students through the development and implementation of the International Education Strategy;
  - developing the Saskatchewan International Future Scholarship to provide 20 students annually the opportunity to study business at an international institution; and
  - developing a framework to assess post-secondary educational institutions' eligibility for hosting international students.

Strategy

Supporting growth by funding research and innovation

Key Actions

- Support research and innovation by continuing to invest in activities including the International Vaccine Center (InterVac), Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron, and the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Water Security.
- Support science and research activities through the province's post-secondary institutions and focus on the province's innovation agenda including initiatives such as enhanced oil recovery, mining, life sciences, crop sciences, value-added food processing and manufacturing.

Photo Credit: Enterprise Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Mosaic Belle Plaine site

Strategy

Supporting students to attend and complete advanced education

Key Actions

- Develop and implement an affordability and accessibility framework for Saskatchewan students which includes:
  - supporting the participation and completion of eligible learners with financial needs in the post-secondary education system by continuing to provide student loans;
  - providing grants for individuals with student loans who have high financial and/or special needs;
  - supporting the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship fund; and
  - delivering the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship for all new Saskatchewan grade 12 or GED graduates who enroll in a provincial post-secondary institution.
- Continue to provide additional housing for students in Saskatchewan.
- Encourage structured learning experiences and applied learning opportunities, including co-op programs.
- Fully implement the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Educational Savings (SAGES) which matches up to 10% of the annual contribution to a Saskatchewan child's Registered Education Savings Plan to a maximum of $250 annually.

Strategy

Supporting First Nations and Métis students' participation and success in advanced education

Key Actions

- Develop a collaborative response to the recommendations from the Joint Task Force on First Nations and Métis Education and Employment and begin implementation of the responses.
- Encourage a range of actions to increase the participation and success of First Nations and Métis people in advanced education.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Blue Sky over Duck Mountain

Strategy

Supporting the advanced education sector by providing leadership and resources

Key Actions

- Continue implementation of the Action Plan on Accountability and Governance for the post-secondary sector.
- Continue to implement the Ministry response to the 2010 Regional Colleges' Review.
- Fully implement *The Degree Authorization Act* and *Regulations* which enable post-secondary institutions other than the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina to become authorized to provide degree programs in Saskatchewan.
- Initiate processes to modernize Private Vocational School regulations.
- Implement a collaborative process to consider effectiveness and efficiency in the post-secondary education system.
- Work with institutions to increase the use of Lean methodologies.
- Invest in needed infrastructure and develop a post-secondary capital plan that is strategically aligned with the Province's goals.

Strategy

Supporting the Ministry to be responsive and responsible

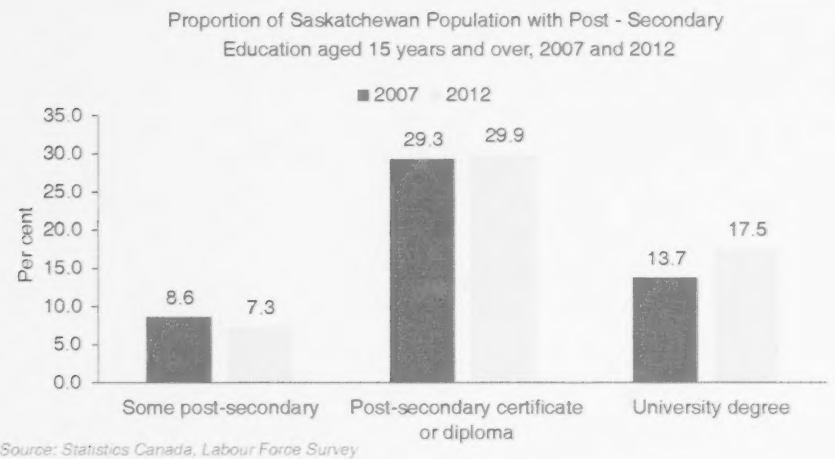
Key Actions

- Continue development and implementation of a new accountability framework for the Ministry.
- Continue to work in partnership with the Information Technology Office to stabilize the One Client Service Model (OCSM) technology tool and to outline a strategy to meet future technological needs.
- Continue activities to support government-wide initiatives in the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth by:
  - undertaking productivity improvements by continuing implementation of Lean methodology and embedding it into the organizational culture of the Ministry;
  - completing the workforce adjustment process to achieve the reduction target of 15%;
  - continuing implementation of the Workforce Plan; and
  - embedding Enterprise Risk Management processes across the Ministry.
- Continue to implement the Ministry core review and evaluation schedule including:
  - implementing the approved action plan resulting from the core review on Student Aid Fund programs; and
  - undertaking the scheduled core program reviews.
- Support Public Service Renewal by aligning the Ministry's culture with the achievement of its strategic objectives.

Performance Measures

Measure

Post-secondary Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 Years and Over and Labour Force Attachment by Credential



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Employment Rate (%) by Education Level, Population Aged 15 Years and Over, Saskatchewan, 2007 to 2012							
Education level	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total, all education levels	65.6	66.6	66.8	66.7	66.3	65.7	66.2
Not completed high school	42.3	43.3	42.5	40.7	40.3	40.2	40.2
High school graduate	73.6	74.3	73.1	72.5	71.9	70.2	70.7
Some post-secondary	68.3	69.7	70.0	69.1	67.9	67.0	66.9
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	73.6	73.9	75.5	75.0	74.4	74.1	73.7
University degree	80.1	80.9	79.3	80.9	79.6	78.4	79.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Measure Description

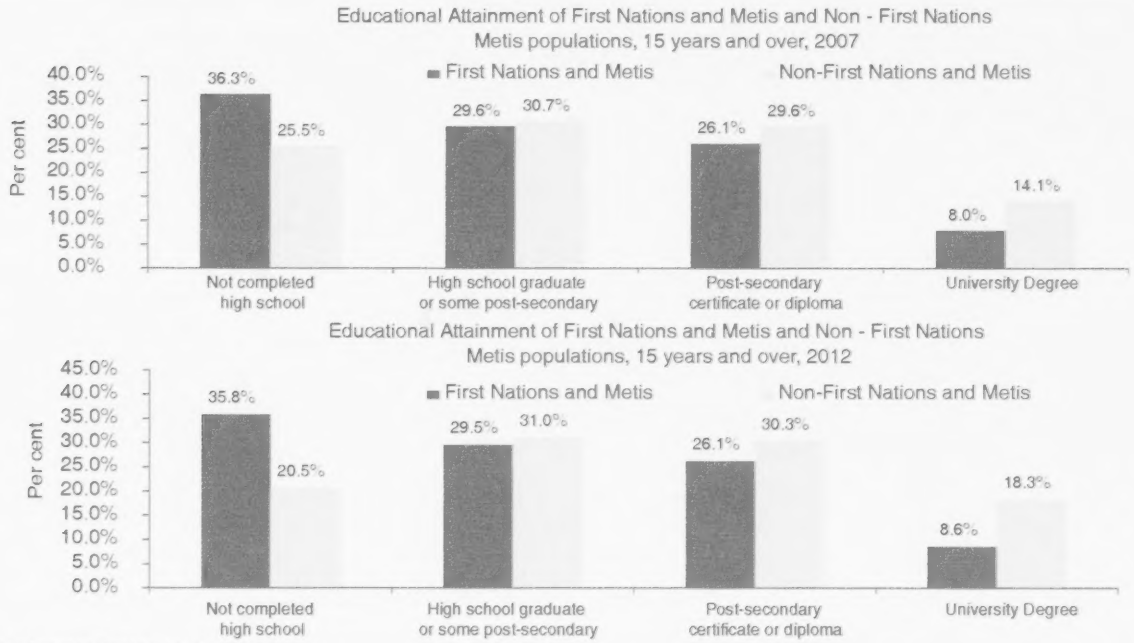
These indicators reflect the critical importance of educational attainment and its relationship to employment. Studies show that individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, higher rates of employment, and shorter periods of unemployment and better health outcomes. Education is a key component of productivity growth, which in turn results in a higher standard of living, and supports the Government goal of growing and developing Saskatchewan's labour force.

The post-secondary educational attainment measure identifies the educational attainment of the Province's population aged 15 years and older. Data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey indicates that the educational attainment of Saskatchewan's labour force has risen between 2007 and 2012.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridges

Measure

Educational Attainment of First Nations and Métis and Non-First Nations and Métis Populations Aged 15 Years and Over



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Note: Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey is the most reliable source of annual Aboriginal labour force characteristics, but it includes information for off-reserve First Nations only. The educational attainment of the non-Aboriginal population is based on a larger sample size and therefore has a higher degree of statistical reliability than that for First Nations and Métis people.

Measure Description

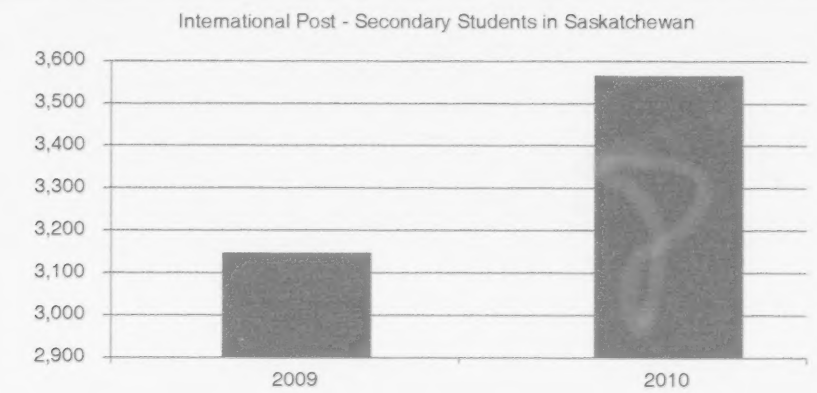
Higher educational attainment is an important factor in gaining and maintaining employment and supports Government's goal to grow and develop Saskatchewan's labour force. Individuals with higher levels of educational attainment are more likely to have higher wages, shorter periods of unemployment, and better health outcomes. However, because education levels change slowly over time, data should be analyzed over a period of time. The First Nations and Métis population continues to lag behind the non-First Nations and Métis population in the completion of high school and post-secondary education. With a young and growing First Nations and Métis population, it is essential that supports are in place to help ensure increasing numbers of First Nations and Métis youth complete high school, are successful in post-secondary education and enter the workforce.

Government can influence this measure by working with its partners to addresss the factors impacting the education and employment outcomes for First Nations and Métis people. These include improving basic skills, establishing links to employment, and providing needed supports.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, Greg Huszar Photography, Dancers, Standing Indian Buffalo Powwow

Measure

Number of International Students Studying in Saskatchewan



Source: Citizen and Immigration Canada database

Measure Description

This indicator reflects the change in the number of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan. In the Saskatchewan Plan for Growth, the Government has committed to attracting and retaining more international students as part of the province's international immigration strategy. Increasing the number of international students that come and stay in the province will broaden global perspectives of domestic students and expand the province's potential pool of highly skilled and educated immigrants. Over the past five years, the province has seen a steady increase in the number of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan.

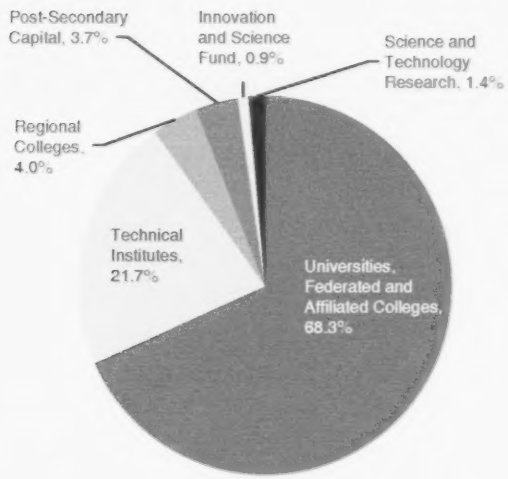
The goal is to increase the number of international post-secondary students studying in Saskatchewan by at least 50 per cent by 2020. Government can influence this measure by working with its post-secondary education partners to address the factors impacting the attraction and retention of international students to the province.

Financial Summary

2013-14 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	13,826
Post Secondary Education	695,634
Student Supports	77,482
Total Appropriation	**786,942**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	
Capital Asset Amortization	774
Total Expense	**787,716**
FTE Staff Compliment	**143.9**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2013-14

AE Post-Secondary Education ($693 million)


Post-Secondary Capital, 3.7%
Innovation and Science Fund, 0.9%
Science and Technology Research, 1.4%
Regional Colleges, 4.0%
Technical Institutes, 21.7%
Universities, Federated and Affiliated Colleges, 68.3%

AE Budget ($788 million)

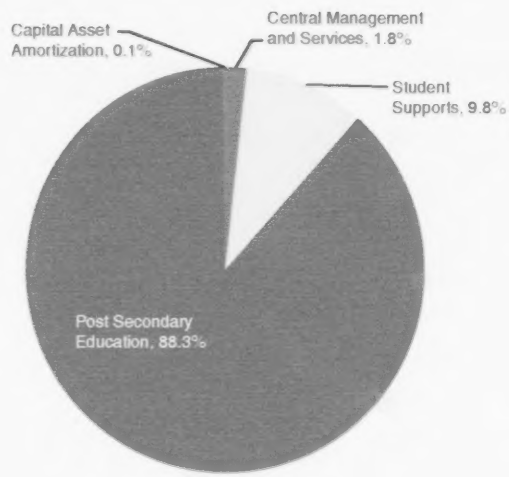


Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, David Boag, Kayaking, MacFarlane River

Highlights

Overall 2013-14 budget of $787.7 million, an increase of 8.8 per cent.

- $692.7 million in funding to post-secondary institutions, an increase of almost $53 million to support operational increases and several key investments at post-secondary institutions.
- $14.3 million increase in operating funds, representing a 3.1 per cent increase for technical institutes and an average 2.1 per cent increase for universities, federated and affiliated colleges, and regional colleges.
- $19.4 million direct investment in First Nations and Métis education including higher than inflation increases in operating funds to many institutions including First Nations University, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Northern Teacher Education Program.
- $117.4 million in direct student supports, up $19.6 million or 20 per cent from last year. This includes:
  - $63.9 million in refundable and non-refundable tax credits for the Graduate Retention Program, an increase of $12.2 million or 23.6 per cent;
  - $7.5 million for the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship, an increase of $2.9 million or 63 per cent;
  - $6.5 million in new funding for the Saskatchewan Advantage Grant for Education Savings;
  - $34.5 million for the Student Aid Fund to support grants and bursaries; and,
  - $5 million for other scholarships.
- $25.5 million in capital investments to support post-secondary infrastructure including:
  - $4 million for continued renovation and expansion of Southeast Regional College;
  - $1 million to support planning for a new Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College; and
  - $16.5 million for capital improvements, repairs and equipment at post-secondary institutions.
- $16.1 million in operating and capital funding for the new Health Sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan.
- $10 million investment in the proposed student residence at the University of Regina through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.
- $5.3 million increase in funds to continue the expansion of doctor and nursing training seats as well as the addition of five more nurse practitioner seats.
- Nurses and nurse practitioners are encouraged to practice in underserved rural and remote communities through forgiveness of up to $20,000 in Saskatchewan student loans.
- Over $17 million for Canadian Light Source, International Vaccine Centre, Water Research Chair, and other initiatives including $6.3 million from the Innovation and Science Fund.

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.ae.gov.sk.ca for more information on the Ministry's programs and services.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Over the Hill Orchards*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
Photographer, Charles Melnick	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*	*Greg Huszar Photography*